

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-18 (Canceled).

Claim 19 (New): A coating film forming method for forming a coating film on a surface of a substrate on which a plurality of patterns of grooves or ridges are formed, by dispensing a coating liquid from a liquid coating nozzle, said method comprising:

horizontally holding the substrate by a substrate holding member;

imaging a surface of the substrate;

determining directions of the plurality of patterns based on an imaging result, and orienting the substrate in an orientation, determined based on data structured so as to associate directions of plurality of patterns with orientations in each of which a substrate is to be oriented, so that each of the plurality of patterns on the substrate crosses a scanning direction of the liquid coating nozzle; and

linearly scanning the liquid coating nozzle relative to the substrate, while dispensing a coating liquid from the liquid coating nozzle.

Claim 20 (New): The coating film forming method according to claim 19, further comprising arraying a plurality of linear coating liquid lines in a forward-and-backward direction, by repeating an operation in which the liquid coating nozzle is moved in a right-and-left direction to linearly apply the coating liquid on the surface of the substrate, and an operation in which the substrate holding member is moved relative to the liquid coating nozzle in the forward-and-backward direction at a preset pitch.

Claim 21 (New): The coating film forming method according to claim 19, further comprising linearly scanning the liquid coating nozzle relative to the substrate, from one end of the substrate to the other end thereof, the liquid coating nozzle being provided with a plurality of linearly-arranged dispense ports for dispensing the coating liquid.

Claim 22 (New): The coating film forming method according to claim 19, further comprising returning the substrate to an orientation in which the substrate was oriented when the substrate was delivered to the substrate holding member before starting of a coating process, prior to removing the substrate having been subjected to the coating process from the substrate holding member.

Claim 23 (New): The coating film forming method according to claim 20, further comprising returning the substrate to an orientation in which the substrate was oriented when the substrate was delivered to the substrate holding member before starting of a coating process, prior to removing the substrate having been subjected to the coating process from the substrate holding member.

Claim 24 (New): The coating film forming method according to claim 21, further comprising returning the substrate to an orientation in which the substrate was oriented when the substrate was delivered to the substrate holding member before starting of a coating process, prior to removing the substrate having been subjected to the coating process from the substrate holding member.

Claim 25 (New): A coating film forming method for forming a coating film on a surface of a substrate on which a pattern of grooves or ridges are formed, by dispensing a coating liquid from a liquid coating nozzle, said method comprising:

horizontally holding the substrate by a substrate holding member;

retrieving, from data structured so as to associate kinds of substrates with orientations in each of which a substrate is to be oriented, an orientation in which the substrate to be coated is to be oriented, and orienting the substrate in the orientation so that the pattern on the substrate to be coated crosses a scanning direction of the liquid coating nozzle; and

linearly scanning the liquid coating nozzle relative to the substrate, while dispensing a coating liquid from the liquid coating nozzle.

Claim 26 (New): The coating film forming method according to claim 25, further comprising arraying a plurality of linear coating liquid lines in a forward-and-backward direction, by repeating an operation in which the liquid coating nozzle is moved in a right-and-left direction to linearly apply the coating liquid on the surface of the substrate, and an operation in which the substrate holding member is moved relative to the liquid coating nozzle in the forward-and-backward direction at a preset pitch.

Claim 27 (New): The coating film forming method according to claim 25, further comprising linearly scanning the liquid coating nozzle relative to the substrate, from one end of the substrate to the other end thereof, the liquid coating nozzle being provided with a plurality of linearly-arranged dispense ports for dispensing the coating liquid.

Claim 28 (New): The coating film forming method according to claim 25, further comprising returning the substrate to an orientation in which the substrate was oriented when

the substrate was delivered to the substrate holding member before starting of a coating process, prior to removing the substrate having been subjected to the coating process from the substrate holding member.

Claim 29 (New): The coating film forming method according to claim 26, further comprising returning the substrate to an orientation in which the substrate was oriented when the substrate was delivered to the substrate holding member before starting of a coating process, prior to removing the substrate having been subjected to the coating process from the substrate holding member.

Claim 30 (New): The coating film forming method according to claim 27, further comprising returning the substrate to an orientation in which the substrate was oriented when the substrate was delivered to the substrate holding member before starting of a coating process, prior to removing the substrate having been subjected to the coating process from the substrate holding member.

Claim 31 (New): A coating film forming apparatus for forming a coating film on a surface of a substrate on which a plurality of patterns of grooves or ridges are formed, said apparatus comprising:

- a substrate holding member adapted to support a substrate horizontally;

- a liquid coating nozzle opposed to the substrate held by the substrate holding member, the liquid coating nozzle being adapted to dispense a coating liquid to the substrate;

- image-pickup means for imaging a surface of the substrate;

- angle setting means including storage means for storing data structured so as to associate directions of plurality of patterns with orientations in each of which a substrate is to

be oriented, the angle setting means being configured to determine directions of the plurality of patterns based on an imaging result obtained by the imaging means, and configured to orient the substrate to an orientation so that each of the plurality of patterns on the substrate crosses a scanning direction of the liquid coating nozzle; and

a driving mechanism adapted to cause the liquid coating nozzle to be moved relative to the substrate holding member such that the liquid coating nozzle linearly scans the substrate relatively.

Claim 32 (New): The coating film forming apparatus according to claim 31, further comprising a first driving mechanism adapted to cause the substrate holding member to be moved in a forward-and-backward direction relative to the liquid coating nozzle, and a second driving mechanism adapted to move the liquid coating nozzle in a right-and-left direction, whereby a plurality of linear coating liquid lines are arrayed in the forward -and-backward direction to form a film of the coating liquid on the substrate, by repeating an operation in which, after the liquid coating nozzle is moved in the right-and-left direction while liquid coating nozzle dispenses the coating liquid, the substrate holding member is moved in a forward-and-backward direction relative to the liquid coating nozzle at a preset pitch.

Claim 33 (New): The coating film forming apparatus according to claim 31, wherein:  
the liquid coating nozzle is provided with a plurality of linearly-arranged dispense ports for dispensing the coating liquid; and

the driving mechanism is configured to cause the liquid coating nozzle to be moved relative to the substrate holding member so that the liquid coating nozzle to linearly scan the substrate relatively from one end of the substrate to the other end thereof.

Claim 34 (New): The coating film forming apparatus according to claim 31, further comprising means for returning the substrate to an orientation in which the substrate was oriented when the substrate was delivered to the substrate holding member before starting of a coating process, prior to removing the substrate having been subjected to the coating process from the substrate holding member.

Claim 35 (New): A coating film forming apparatus for forming a coating film on a surface of a substrate on which a pattern of grooves or ridges are formed, said apparatus comprising:

a substrate holding member adapted to support a substrate horizontally;

a liquid coating nozzle opposed to the substrate held by the substrate holding member, the liquid coating nozzle being adapted to dispense a coating liquid to the substrate;

angle setting means including storage means for storing data structured so as to associate kinds of substrates with orientations in each of which a substrate is to be oriented, the angle setting means being configured to retrieve an orientation in which the substrate to be coated is to be oriented, and configured to orient the substrate to the orientation so that each of the plurality of patterns on the substrate crosses a scanning direction of the liquid coating nozzle;

a driving mechanism adapted to cause the liquid coating nozzle to be moved relative to the substrate holding member such that the liquid coating nozzle linearly scans the substrate relatively.

Claim 36 (New): The coating film forming apparatus according to claim 35, further comprising a first driving mechanism adapted to cause the substrate holding member to be

moved in a forward-and-backward direction relative to the liquid coating nozzle, and a second driving mechanism adapted to move the liquid coating nozzle in a right-and-left direction, whereby a plurality of linear coating liquid lines are arrayed in the forward -and-backward direction to form a film of the coating liquid on the substrate, by repeating an operation in which, after the liquid coating nozzle is moved in the right-and-left direction while liquid coating nozzle dispenses the coating liquid, the substrate holding member is moved in a forward-and-backward direction relative to the liquid coating nozzle at a preset pitch.

Claim 37 (New): The coating film forming apparatus according to claim 35, wherein:  
the liquid coating nozzle is provided with a plurality of linearly-arranged dispense ports for dispensing the coating liquid; and

the driving mechanism is configured to cause the liquid coating nozzle to be moved relative to the substrate holding member so that the liquid coating nozzle to linearly scan the substrate relatively from one end of the substrate to the other end thereof.

Claim 38 (New): The coating film forming apparatus according to claim 35, further comprising means for returning the substrate to an orientation in which the substrate was oriented when the substrate was delivered to the substrate holding member before starting of a coating process, prior to removing the substrate having been subjected to the coating process from the substrate holding member.